

Pavilion Catering

Testimony in opposition of SB 270 AAC Prohibition of Certain Gifts from Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Companies to Health Care Providers

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jonathan Jennings and I am the General Manager of Pavilion Catering in Middletown, Vice President of the Connecticut Caterers Association and a Board Member of the Connecticut Restaurant Association

I would like to voice my opposition to SB 270 AAC Prohibition of Certain Gifts from Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Companies to Health Care Providers. As a caterer myself and a representative of a group of Connecticut Caterers, I feel that the language in section 3 of this bill would be damaging to caterers in Connecticut. As a group, our Caterers cater business meetings at many local venues across the state as well as host medical seminars at our catering facilities and restaurants. Putting limitations on where and how meals can be provided by pharmaceutical reps to doctors and medical staff will directly impact the financial health of many of our members, most of whom are small, family run companies. Many caterers, including myself, cater larger events on the weekends and count on smaller luncheon and dinner events catered during the week to sustain their staffs. The restriction or elimination of this type of business will result in job losses and negative growth in an industry already suffering in a down economy. This is a bad idea that caterers simply can't afford. I respectfully request that you eliminate the parts of this proposed bill that will hurt small business in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.